

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 15894 291519Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 291500Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7487
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T ROME 15894

EXDIS

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, PL, VT
SUBJECT: STATUS OF CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI'S HEALTH

REF: WARSAW 6578

1. RELIABLE VATICAN SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI IS DYING AND IMPLIED THAT VATICAN WAS PREPARING CONTINGENCY PLANS, AMONG THEM THE ELEVATION OF CARDINAL WOJTYLA TO REPLACE HIM AND THE STATIONING OF A PAPAL REPRESENTATIVE IN WARSAW.

2. THE VATICAN UNDERSTANDS THAT CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI RECENTLY HAD AN OPERATION FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER WHICH, APPARENTLY, WAS ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL. THE VATICAN HOPES THAT CARDINAL WILL SURVIVE AT LEAST THROUGH THE VISIT OF FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK TO THE POPE, SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 26-27, WHEN VATICAN EXPECTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ONE OF TWO ALTERNATIVES. VATICAN WOULD PREFER ARCHBISHOP LUIGI POGGI, NUNCIO-AT-LARGE AND CHIEF OF THE HOLY SEE'S DELEGATION FOR "PERMANENT CONTACTS" WITH GOP, TO BE NAMED NUNCIO TO WARSAW. THE FALL-BACK POSITION WOULD BE TO HAVE HIM INITIALLY STATIONED THERE FOR THE CONDUCT OF PERMANENT
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CONTACTS, RATHER THAN AS AT PRESENT, STATIONED IN ROME AND MAKING PERIODIC VISITS TO WARSAW.

3. WITH RESPECT TO A SUCCESSOR FOR CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI, VATICAN, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WOULD BACK CARDINAL WOJTYLA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WOJTYLA HAS MADE GOOD IMPRESSION ON THE POPE AS A POTENTIAL LEADER IN POLAND AND VATICAN

PERCEIVES HIM AS HAVING SUFFICIENT FOLLOWING AMONG THE
POLISH CATHOLIC CLERGY TO BE ACCEPTABLE AS PRIMATE.
HOLMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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